

ADMINISTRATIVE PEDIATRIC

Idaho EMS Guideline
Administrative

REFUSAL OF CARE / CONSENT TO TREAT

IN THE EVENT OF AN EMERGENCY WHEN LIFE AND/OR HEALTH ARE ENDANGERED, TREAT AND TRANSPORT

INDICATIONS:

- Refusal of care by an unaccompanied minor
- Treatment and release of an unaccompanied minor

CONTRAINDICATIONS:

- Endangerment of life and/or health by withholding or delaying treatment and/or transport.

1. A minor is a person under the age of 18 who has never been married or emancipated by legal proceeding and is currently not under the care of a parent or guardian.
2. Except in an emergency, a parent or guardian must give consent for treatment/transport of minors. If unavailable, a competent relative representing him/herself as the appropriate responsible person for the minor may act for a minor.
3. In the case of a self reported infectious, contagious or communicable disease a person over the age of 14 may seek treatment without parent/guardian consent.
4. Refusal of care is valid if the parent/guardian refusing for the minor is sufficiently aware of pertinent facts regarding the need for treatment and/or transport, the nature of the treatment and transport and the significant risks of refusing the treatment and/or transport.
5. Consent to treat and release does not have to be in writing.
6. Refusal of treatment/transport should be documented in the area provided on the back of the Idaho EMS Patient Care Report or run report.

39-4302. PERSONS WHO MAY CONSENT TO THEIR OWN CARE. Any person of ordinary intelligence and awareness sufficient for him or her generally to comprehend the need for, the nature of and the significant risks ordinarily inherent in any contemplated hospital, medical, dental or surgical care, treatment or procedure is competent to consent thereto on his own behalf. Any physician, dentist, hospital or other duly authorized person may provide such health care and services in reliance upon such a consent if the consenting person appears to the physician or dentist securing the consent to possess such requisite intelligence and awareness at the time of giving it.

The Idaho EMSC Project has taken extreme caution to ensure all information is accurate and in accordance with professional standards in effect at the time of publication. This guideline is for reference and may be modified at the discretion of the EMS Medical Director. It is recommended that care be based on the child's clinical presentation and on authorized policies and guidelines.